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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Items 33, 53 and 56
of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION OF
AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 4 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a press communiqué issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its fifty-ninth session, held at Riyadh on 1 and 2 June 1996 under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 33, 53 and 56 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Salim Bin Mohammed AL-KHUSSAIBY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/51/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: Arabic]

Press communiqué issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its fifty-ninth session, held at Riyadh on 1 and 2 June 1996

The Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held its fifty-ninth regular session at the seat of its secretariat in Riyadh on 1 and 2 June 1996 under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman. The meeting was attended by:

His Excellency Mr. Rashid Bin Abdullah al-Nuaimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates;

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia;

His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jasim Bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar; and

His Excellency Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.

The Ministerial Council welcomed His Excellency Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim al-Hegelan in his capacity as GCC Secretary-General and wished him success in the formidable tasks entrusted to him in promoting the realization of the hopes and aspirations of the leaders and peoples of the GCC countries.

The Council also welcomed Mr. Abdullah Bin Salih Bin Mubarak, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, and wished him continued success.

Progress made in cooperation

The Council expressed its profound satisfaction at the statement issued by Saudi Arabia and Qatar on their agreement to complete the demarcation of boundaries, to resume work in the joint technical committee with a view to selecting an international survey company and to elaborate the technical specifications for the conduct of a survey and the establishment of points marking the boundary between the two countries on the ground.

The Council welcomed the bilateral agreements concluded by some member States on the movement of nationals between them and on personal identification documents. It looks forward to all GCC member States emulating those that have taken practical measures in this regard, and it stresses the importance of such measures and their impact on strengthening the various fields of joint action

that embody the policies and aspirations of the leaders of the GCC countries and the expectations of their peoples.

Iraq's compliance with the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait

The Council expressed its satisfaction at the signing of the memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the United Nations on the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995). That resolution addresses the matter of making provision for the humanitarian and medical needs to the Iraqi people and putting an end to the suffering for which the Iraqi Government alone bears responsibility, given that it has been refusing to accept the implementation of the resolution since its adoption two years ago and has thus been depriving the Iraqi people of essentials for no reason. Expressing its high appreciation of the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, of the United Nations negotiating team and of the impetus given to the success of the negotiations by the members of the Security Council, the Ministerial Council hopes that this development will open the way for Iraq to implement all the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly those relating to the release of Kuwaiti and third-country prisoners and detainees, compliance with the compensation mechanism, the return of all property to Kuwait and the requirement to refrain from all acts of aggression or provocation in compliance with resolution 949 (1994). The Council further urges Iraq fully to discharge its other international obligations under the Security Council resolutions relating to the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction and to do so by permitting the international inspection teams to carry out their assigned tasks. In this connection, the Council pledges its continued political and material support for the efforts of the United Nations Special Commission entrusted with the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and invites the international community to participate actively in supporting the Commission's efforts in every way possible in order to enable it to achieve its objective of placing the security and stability of the region on a firm foundation.

The Council reaffirms its total rejection of any policies aimed at prejudicing the territorial integrity of Iraq and expresses its wholehearted desire for the preservation of the country's sovereignty and territorial unity.

The Council expressed its distaste for and condemnation of the irresponsible statements made recently in Cairo by President Qaddafi, which represent an encroachment on the independence and sovereignty of Kuwait and a breach of the established customs and principles governing relations between States.

Relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the issue of the occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates

The Council reviewed recent developments in relations between the GCC States and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the question of the occupation of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates. It noted that the Iranian Government was continuing to take measures aimed at perpetuating its occupation of the islands by pursuing a policy of imposing facts by force. Having built an airstrip on Abu Musa on

10 March 1996, it had established an electricity station on the Greater Tunb on 14 April 1996 and had announced on 19 May 1996 the construction of a new seaport on Abu Musa to be completed this year, thus insisting on the further pursuit of its unwarranted and provocative measures. Having taken note of the letters from the Government of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Iranian Government protesting against these measures, the Council reiterated its profound regret that the Islamic Republic of Iran was maintaining its refusal to respond positively to repeated, earnest and sincere calls from the United Arab Emirates for a peaceful solution to the dispute. The Council expressed its condemnation of successive Iranian measures on islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and its continued concern at the consequences of the Iranian Government's insistence on pursuing a policy of imposing facts by force. Such measures represent a violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates and an infringement of its rights with respect to the islands, they jeopardize security and stability in the region and they are incompatible with the principles and norms of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the principles of good-neighbourliness and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States of the region.

The Council reaffirms its resolute position in support of the United Arab Emirates and renews its unconditional endorsement of all the peaceful measures it has taken with a view to restoring its sovereignty over the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. It renews its call to Iran to agree to the referral of the dispute to the International Court of Justice.

Affirming that the security of the GCC States is an integral whole, the Council urges Iran to refrain from interference in the internal affairs of Bahrain and other member States, to avoid any resort to or encouragement of acts of sabotage and to respect the sovereignty and independence of the GCC States. At the same time, it expresses its concern at the continuing efforts and sustained endeavour of the Islamic Republic of Iran to acquire and build a weapons capability that surpasses internationally recognized and legitimate conventional defensive needs, thereby posing a grave threat to security and stability in the region. In this connection, the Council calls on the international community and the international organizations concerned to endeavour to transform the Gulf region into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

The peace process in the Middle East

The Council discussed recent developments in the peace process in the Middle East in light of the fixed principles embodied in the positions it has adopted in support of the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on the terms of reference of the Madrid Peace Conference, particularly Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for peace, a peace that will ensure an end to Israeli occupation of all Arab territory and enable the Palestinian people to assert its legitimate rights, including the right to exercise self-determination and establish an independent State on its native soil.

The Council reiterated its firm stand in support of the Syrian position calling for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan to the 4 June 1967 boundary line.

Reiterating its strong condemnation of Israeli aggression against Lebanon and reaffirming its full support for and solidarity with the Lebanese people, the Council also affirms the need for adherence to the understanding reached on 27 April 1996 as a preliminary step towards the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978). It urges the Security Council to compel Israel to pay the compensation required for the repair of facilities and infrastructure destroyed by Israeli attacks and for the human casualties incurred.

In the light of the outcome of the Israeli elections, the Council stressed the need to require the incoming Israeli Government to remain fully and meticulously committed to the implementation of all the agreements reached as part of the peace process in the Middle East, as a strategic option from which there can be no retreat.

In this context, the Council urges the co-sponsors of the Madrid Peace Conference, and particularly the United States of America, to make the greatest efforts to ensure that the peace process continues, that the Palestinian-Israeli agreements are implemented fully and speedily and that serious progress is made towards bringing the final-phase negotiations on such important and basic issues as Jerusalem, the settlements, the refugees and the final status of the occupied Palestinian territories to a positive outcome. There must also be a speedy resumption of the bilateral negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks so as to ensure the achievement of tangible progress that will promote the establishment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Extremism, violence and terrorism

Affirming that extremism, violence and terrorism are global phenomena that are not restricted to any particular people or region, the Council renews its condemnation of such phenomena and its categorical rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism, particularly those that are detrimental to security and stability in the region. It calls upon the international community to coordinate its efforts to halt acts of violence and terrorism, ensure that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice, and prevent extremist and terrorist elements from using the territory of any State for purposes of obtaining funding or arms supplies and from availing themselves of the media to incite to acts of violence or terrorism.

The Council expresses its satisfaction that the security services in Saudi Arabia have been able to arrest the perpetrators of the bombing in the Ulaya neighbourhood and wishes the Government and people of Saudi Arabia continued security and stability under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

The Council renews its support for Bahrain and its full backing for the measures it is taking to strengthen its security and stability. It does so given the principle of the shared destiny of the GCC countries, the global

character of their security and the concern that their stability should not be weakened or undermined.

The Council recalled the decisions taken by the GCC Supreme Council at its sixteenth session, held in Muscat, which stressed the importance of cooperation among GCC States in countering biased media campaigns directed against any member State and the need for compliance with the foreign media controls and code of media integrity, which call for the adoption of a common position against newspapers and other media defaming the GCC countries.

Developments in the dispute between the Republic of Yemen and Eritrea concerning the Hanish islands

The Council reviewed developments in the dispute between the Republic of Yemen and Eritrea concerning the Hanish islands. It expressed satisfaction that on 21 May 1996 the two countries had signed a set of principles for an agreement on the peaceful resolution of the dispute concerning questions of territorial sovereignty and maritime boundaries between the two countries by means of international arbitration, and it appreciates the international mediation efforts made with a view to securing this agreement, particularly those of France.

Developments in the situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Council reviewed developments affecting events in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and stressed the importance of the effective implementation of all the provisions of the Dayton agreement if security, stability and peace were to be achieved for all the parties to that agreement. It reaffirms the need for the international community to cooperate in bringing before the International Tribunal at The Hague all of those who have committed crimes against humanity, genocide or serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia.

Economic matters

Pursuant to the decision of the GCC Supreme Council at its sixteenth session, held in Muscat from 4 to 6 December 1995, the ministers for foreign affairs and ministers of finance and economy of the GCC States held their seventh meeting at the seat of the GCC secretariat in Riyadh on 1 June 1996 to discuss a unified customs tariff for the GCC States vis-à-vis the rest of the world. After discussing the note by the secretariat on the subject, they decided to request the Secretary-General to hold consultations with member States so that they could discuss the best means of reaching agreement on the proposals contained in the note and submit their views to another joint meeting of the Ministerial Council and the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation to be held in September 1996.